

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

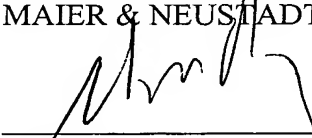
The claims have been revised responsive to the objection and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, which objection and rejection are believed to be moot.

The allowable claims 5 and 15, as well as their intervening claims 4 and 14, have been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1 and 11, respectively. The prior art rejections are therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099

I:\RTP\239959.AM